Nuclear Programme

2773. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether dissolution of USSR is affecting our on-going Atomic Energy Projects and Programmes:

(b) whether the outcome of Geneva talks on CTBT shall have any adverse impact on our on-going nuclear programmes for peaceful purposes: and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Jalep La Trade Route to China

2774. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the State Government of West Bengal for considering the opening of Jalep La Pass/ route via Kalimpong for promoting the Trade-relation between India and China;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (d). The Government of West Bengal have, in the past, pointed out the possibility of using either Nathu La or Jalep La as border trade route between India and China. Both Jalep La and Nathu La are in close proximity to each other. The issue of opening Nathu La as trade route is under discussion with the Chinese side.

Judgement on social Evil of Dowry

2775. DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a recent judgement wherein the Supreme Court has called in a movement to check the social evil of dowry; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India is in agreement with the judgement of the Supreme Court of India delivered on 11th July, 1996 (Criminal Appeal No.231 of 1994) that there is need for awakening of the collective consciousness, for a change of heart and attitudes and for a wider social movement not only of educating women of their rights but also of the men folk to respect and recognise the basic human values needed to bury the pernicious social evil of dowry.

Malaria Control Scheme

2776. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a seminar on Central assistance to be given under Malaria control scheme was held recently and it was decided that 70% of the expenditure would be borne by the Union Government:

(b) if so, whether the above decision has been implemented:

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be implemented: and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) In the meeting of the Central Council for Health & Family Welfare held during October, 1995, a resolution was passed that the present budget allocation for National Malaria Eradication Programme (NMEP) needs to be increased and the Central State Share ratio to be revised to 70:30, keeping in view the malaria situation and the problems faced by the States in providing their sharing 50% under the National Malaria Eradication Programme.

(b) to (d). The implementation of this recommendation would depend, interalia, on augmentation of budget outlays for Malaria in future, and, appropriate policy decisions at various levels.

[Translation]

Publication of Gujarati/Hindi Books

2777. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any financial assistance has been provided to Gujarat for the publication of Gujarati/Hindi books during the last three years till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof: and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government for the development of Gujarati and Hindi in this State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b). A grant of Rs.2,73,736/- has been paid in